



National Weather Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLAINFIELD PREPARED FOR SEVERE WEATHER

Chicago, IL - The Chicago area StormReady advisory board has certified Plainfield as a StormReady community. A brief recognition ceremony will take place Monday July 19, 2004 at 700 PM at the Plainfield village board meeting. The ceremony will be at the Plainfield Village Hall, 24000 West Lockport Street, second floor.

StormReady is a program developed by the National Weather Service (NWS), in cooperation with state and local emergency management agencies, to recognize communities or counties that have established outstanding severe weather preparedness plans. The certification requires the community or county to have;

- a 24-hour warning point and an emergency operations center that is manned during severe weather.
- redundant methods of monitoring weather conditions, receiving severe weather warnings from the NWS, and disseminating warnings to the community.
- trained severe storm spotters and established communications with NWS.
- educational outreach programs for the community.
- tone activated weather radios in schools and other public buildings.

Assistant Coordinator John Konopek and Captain Dennis Hamilton of Plainfield Emergency Management Agency have ensured that the community met or exceeded all of the requirements of the StormReady program. National Weather Service watches and warnings are received from the internet, weather radio, amateur radio, Will County Emergency Management Agency, and from Illinois State Police at WESCOM 911 center and at the Plainfield Emergency Operations Center. Other weather data, forecasts and radar images are received as well. Every school building in the community receives severe weather bulletins from NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Radios are also at all municipal buildings, and the nursing home. Sirens are also activated for severe weather. There is a network of trained Skywarn severe storm spotters and weather information is relayed to the NWS.

Plainfield becomes only the 12th Storm Ready community in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. There are four StormReady counties, including Will County. There

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are 757 StormReady sites nationwide. The certification is good through July, 2007.

The Chicago area local StormReady advisory board that oversees the program includes Jim Allsopp and Jim Stefkovich of the NWS office in Chicago, Paul Rasch of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and William Ferguson of Will County Emergency Management Agency.

For more information on StormReady, visit National Weather Service Chicago on the web at weather.noaa.gov/chicago or www.stormready.noaa.gov. To reach Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jim Allsopp, call 815-834-0600, extension 726. To contact John Konopek of Plainfield Emergency Management Agency, call 815-439-4803.

